

We Claim:-

- Sub a2
1. A method of transmitting data relating to a number of different categories, from a central location to at least one remote receiver, the method comprising allocating a priority to the data to be transmitted in accordance with its category, the priorities defining a relationship between the different categories of the data; transmitting the data in a manner determined by the allocated priorities; monitoring the data to be transmitted to determine whether the data will be transmitted in a satisfactory manner; and, if necessary, changing the priority of any data which has not yet been transmitted so that it will be transmitted satisfactorily.
 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said data is transmitted in an order determined in accordance with the priorities allocated.
 3. A method according to claim 1, further comprising, prior to transmission, compressing said data in a category if a certain priority has been allocated.
 4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said monitoring step comprises determining whether said data will be transmitted within a predetermined time period.
 5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said data is transmitted in packets, each packet containing data of different categories, the method further comprising monitoring a packet to be sent and if space remains in such a packet, the space being insufficient to accommodate data allocated a relatively high priority, incorporating lower priority data into the space prior to transmission.
 6. A method according to claim 1, wherein at least some of said categories are chosen from background game playing data, real time game playing data, receiver maintenance information, and receiver enablement/disablement instructions.
 7. A method according to claim 1, wherein said data is transmitted in conjunction with a TV broadcast signal.

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